

### **REMARKS**

The Examiner indicated claims 12-30 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowed subject matter.

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 31 and 32 as being dependent upon an allegedly rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and have so rewritten claims 3, 31 and 32 in independent form.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over JP2000-63433 for the same reasons as set forth in paragraph 1 of the last office action filed 10-02-06.

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102 and § 103 rejections, with the following arguments.

**35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over JP2000-63433 for the same reasons as set forth in paragraph 1 of the last office action filed 10-02-06.

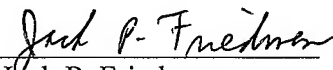
Since claim 1 has been canceled, Applicants respectfully contend that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over JP2000-63433 is moot.

Since claims 2 and 4-10 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 12, Applicants respectfully contend that the rejection of claims 2 and 4-10 are likewise allowable and are thus not under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) obvious over JP2000-63433

### CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0458.

Date: 01/15/2007

  
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